



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON: LOVE IN ACTION

The distinguishing mark of a follower of Jesus Christ is our actionable love for Him and for others.

John 13: 34-35 says, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Jesus kept it simple. He taught and demonstrated that love is an action! As John explains, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." (**1 John 3:18**).

Love is not simply a feeling or an emotion. Love is **POWERFUL**. It's not just words. You've probably heard the saying that "love is a verb", and there's a lot of truth behind that. Love isn't something you can just say, such as "love you to the moon and back", it's something that you need to do. Therefore, **love is action**.

And this is the powerful thing - since God is love, love in action can and will change your life, your home, your church, your community and your world!

Assignments:

1. What is the distinguishing mark of a follower of Jesus Christ?

2. Fill in the blanks: John 13: 34-35 says, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye _____ one another; as I have _____ you, that ye also _____ one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my _____, if ye have love one to another.

GOD DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE FOR US

God demonstrated and proved His love by sending His Son Jesus Christ to sacrifice His life on our behalf. God's action reveals, beyond a doubt, that He loves us.

Before Jesus left the earth, he showed love to tax collectors, prostitutes, diseased people, poor people, outcasts, men, women and children.

God's love in action shifted the trajectory of people's lives and the entire world.

Assignment:

1. How did God demonstrate and prove His love for us?

HOW DOES GOD WANT US TO LOVE?

Mark 12: 30-31 says, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

The Bible makes it clear that we are commanded to love one another and to demonstrate our love by our actions. Love is the driving force behind our entire faith, the reason for everything we do. Every Christian knows that they *should* love. But sometimes it can be hard to discern just *how* to love. How can we fulfill this commandment in our everyday lives? We can start by looking to the example of Christ and love others as He has loved us. So, how can we emulate Jesus in the ways that we love each other?

Assignment:

1. What is the driving force behind our entire faith? _____

Love Unconditionally

The love that God shows us is unconditional – it never leaves us, no matter how far we stray from Him. In the same manner, we are meant to love those around us. We are all imperfect, bound to make mistakes and hurt each other in the process. But 1 Peter tells us that love is strong enough to cover those sins. Love can overcome any wrongdoing. Instead of bearing grudges or holding onto anger, we should be asking for God’s grace to help us look past all human flaws.

Assignment:

1. Fill in the blank: The love that God shows us is _____ – it never leaves us, no matter how far we stray from Him.

Love Without Expecting Anything in Return

Luke 6:35 says, “But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.”

It’s easy to love someone when it’s beneficial to us. But what about when there’s the possibility that we might never be rewarded? Think of Jesus; He healed the sick, the crippled, and many others who came to Him. What could these people have done to repay Him? What could they have given Him that He did not already have? Pure love does not expect anything in return; it simply rejoices in the act of giving.

Assignment:

1. Fill in the blanks: Pure love does not _____; it simply rejoices in the act of giving.

Love Beyond Your Words

Paul explained to the Corinthians that it is better to put your love in action than to have all the gifts, talents and abilities in the world without love.

1 Corinthians 13: 1-2 says, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.”

Matthew 25: 35-36 says, “for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.”

All Jesus’ examples demonstrate love in action.

Actions have impact! It is said that actions speak louder than words. We tend to remember what people did for us rather than what they said or promised to do. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then, an action may be worth ten thousand or more.

Bottom line - to model **Love In Action**, it takes self-sacrifice and discipline – choosing to give, serve, visit, feed and act.

Assignments:

- 1. Fill in the blanks: Paul explained to the Corinthians that it is better to put your love in action than to have all the _____, _____ and _____ in the world without love.**
- 2. Fill in the blanks: To model Love In Action, it takes _____ and _____ – choosing to give, serve, visit, feed and act.**

HOW TO BE LOVE IN ACTION

Because sin has caused the love of many to grow cold in this world, there are now many people who are crying out for someone to show them what

love looks like! They truly hunger to see God's love reproduced in human flesh! The greatest need in this world is to see the character of Christ reproduced in His people. This need for love can be fulfilled by you. So, how are we able to love like God? It is through growing in our relationship with Him. Apart from this, we are not capable of loving in action like Christ!

We have the opportunity to share the love of God in every moment. Opportunities to show love in action are found every day. Here are a few ways you can demonstrate love in action.

- Treating people the way you want to be treated
- Giving to support your church in tithing and offering and New Worship Center giving
- Inviting someone to church
- Helping to disciple someone to be stronger in Christ
- Volunteering to serve in ministry
- Caring for sick family members
- Sitting still and listening
- Forgiving someone
- Praying for someone

In closing, I want to repeat this scripture **John 13: 34-35**, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Love is God. Let's change the world by demonstrating our love in action!

Assignments:

1. **Fill in the blanks:** The greatest need in this world is to see the _____ reproduced in His people.

2. **How are we able to love like God?** _____

3. List 3 ways you can demonstrate love in action:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
